

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 (canceled)

35. (currently amended) A document management extension system for use as an extension to a document collection and management software program, said document management extension system comprising:

an information store comprising a database and a messaging system for storing documents managed by a document collection and management software program, with means for storing documents in one or both of said database and said messaging system, and with stored documents being stored in said database or said messaging system of said information store;

means for document indexing of said database or said messaging system of said stored documents stored solely in said information store; and,

means for processing said stored documents in either said database or said messaging system.

36. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising a user interface accessible through a dialog in a software application program.

37. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising a user interface accessible through a dialog in a software "find" application program.

38. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising document and messaging software.

39. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising software providing for when a network or server fail, while a document is open, a user is able to continue working, even if the user is unaware that the network or server has failed.

40. (currently amended) The document management extension system according to Claim 39, wherein said software providing for when a network or server fail includes provision so that when the network or server are again available, an off-line file of the user automatically re-synchronizes with ~~a mailbox of the user on~~ the server.

41. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 40, further comprising software for enabling the user to check documents out to a local machine of the user, the user using a "check-out" command available in any dialog.

42. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 41, wherein said software for enabling the user to check documents out includes provision for informing a subsequent user who attempts to open a document that the document has been "checked-out" and the time when the document was "checked-out."

43. (currently amended) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising means for launching an application for searching a document ~~management~~ extension store.

44. (currently amended) The document management extension system according to Claim 43, wherein said means for launching an application for searching a document management extension store is carried out by an ~~"In Document Manager"~~ a command in a "Start Menu."

45. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 43, wherein said means for launching an application for searching a document management extension store includes means for allowing searching on all document management extension properties and means for allowing viewing of object properties and setting of permissions.

46. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 45, further comprising document management extension dialogs having a context menu, said context menu having an open function for launching a software application or for opening a file.

47. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 45, further comprising document management extension dialogs having a context menu, said context menu having a "check-out" function capable of being disabled which, if said "check-out" function is disabled, signifies that a document has already been "checked-out."

48. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 45, further comprising document management extension dialogs having a context menu, said context menu having a properties function capable of displaying a properties screen and for permitting viewing and editing of a document's properties.

49. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 45, further comprising document management extension dialogs having a context menu, said context menu having a status function for allowing an implementation of workflow and including options of draft or published.

50. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising means for preventing an uncontrolled and unauthorized access to an object store of said document management extension system.

51. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 50, wherein said means for preventing an uncontrolled and unauthorized access to an object store allows a user to set any document level security attribute, except "delete" using a document management exchange interface to exchange security settings.

52. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 50, wherein said means for preventing an uncontrolled and unauthorized access to an object store allows a user to alter a document and properties, while restricting the user from altering permissions or deleting permissions.

53. (currently amended) The document management extension system according to Claim 50, wherein said means for preventing an uncontrolled and unauthorized access to an object store allows a user to conduct a search for a document and view the document, but does not allow the user to open ~~a site for~~ the document.

54. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 50, wherein said means for preventing an uncontrolled and unauthorized access to an object store allows for a time-based archiving and deletion, so that after a specified time, a document is able to be archived or deleted.

55. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 54, wherein said time-based archiving and deletion is capable of being overridden.

56. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 50, wherein said means for preventing an uncontrolled and unauthorized access to an object store allows for replication on a whole of document set basis.

57. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 50, wherein said means for preventing an uncontrolled and unauthorized access to an object store allows for replication on an individual document basis.

58. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising means for linking documents to one another via specifying one-way logical links between related documents.

59. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising means for linking documents to one another via specifying two-way logical links between related documents.

60. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising a document exchange extension record viewer for allowing retrieval by a user of HTML records management forms.

61. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising a document exchange extension record viewer for allowing completion by a user of HTML records management forms.

62. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising a document exchange extension record viewer for allowing viewing by a user of HTML records management forms.

63. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising a document exchange extension record viewer for allowing saving by a user of HTML records management forms.

64. (previously presented) The document management extension system according to Claim 35, further comprising means for flagging by a user a document management extension object as permanent.